

GENERAL FISHERIES COUNCIL FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Twenty-first Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) was held in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995.
2. The Session was attended by 12 members of the Council. In addition, the European Community (EC) and Japan, attended the Session. The Session was also attended by observers from the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the International Commission for the Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (CIESM), and Greenpeace International. The list of participants is given in Appendix B to this Report.
3. The meeting was called to order by Mr. R. Conde Saro, Chairman of the Council who welcomed the participants, and especially Mr. Luís Atienza Serna, Minister of Food, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain to whom he expressed, on behalf of GFCM particular appreciation for his presence at the opening Session.
4. At the invitation of the Chairman of GFCM, Mr. W. Krone, Assistant Director-General a.i. (Fisheries Department) then addressed the Council.
5. On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Jacques Diouf, Mr. Krone expressed the appreciation of FAO to the Kingdom of Spain and the authorities of the City of Alicante for their generous hospitality and the excellent preparations which had been made for the hosting of this Session.
6. His Excellency Luís Atienza Serna, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in his opening speech welcomed the participants to Spain. He described the conservation measures being taken by his Government to secure the sustainability of the fisheries sector. He mentioned as an example of this the banning of large drifting gillnets by Spain, and called on GFCM member countries to ban the use of this gear. The Minister emphasized the importance of the marine environment on the sustainability of fisheries development and called for the strengthening of the management role of the Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

7. The Council adopted the Agenda shown in Appendix A. The documents which were before the Session are listed in Appendix C.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

8. In reviewing the conclusions of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries Management, the Chairman assigned discussion to the different points of the agenda for detailed consideration and requested comments on those issues which would not be dealt with under specific agenda items.

9. With respect to questions related to the adoption by GFCM of the management measures adopted by ICCAT, the EC Observer noted that the EC and its member States were in favour of the adoption of those ICCAT recommendations which were relevant to the Mediterranean. He also stated that greater clarity and an improved mechanism of collaboration between the two organizations was needed. The Secretary of ICCAT expressed his appreciation for the cooperative spirit that existed between GFCM and ICCAT in the management of large pelagic fish. He informed the Council of the whole set of management recommendations and related resolutions for the Conservation of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species adopted by ICCAT, and suggested that this cooperation be extended from bluefin tuna to include relevant management measures proposed by ICCAT for swordfish as a follow-up to the results of the second meeting of the ad hoc Working Group GFCM/ICCAT on stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Sea (Mediterranean Swordfish Data Preparatory Meeting) to be held in Bari, Italy - September 13 to 19, 1995. The delegate from Croatia suggested that the closed season for bluefin tuna longliners in June and July agreed upon in ICCAT and adopted in resolution 95/1 should be extended to other fishing methods, particularly purse seining, during the spawning season in the Mediterranean. The Chairman proposed, and the Council agreed, that a drafting team should formulate a recommendation on the management of bluefin tuna, based on the ICCAT resolutions that were first adopted in 1974-75.

10. Following consideration by the Council, the following Resolution was adopted by the Council:

Resolution n° 95/1

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995,

Considering that:

- *There is general international concern and evidence as to the depleted state of the stock of bluefin tuna, (*Thunnus thynnus*) whose migration range includes the Eastern Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea,*
- *The principal spawning ground for this stock is the Mediterranean Sea during the months of June and July, at which time it is vulnerable to capture,*
- *The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) regularly evaluates the state of this bluefin tuna stock based on data supplied by its contracting States and from GFCM, and based on these evaluations, proclaimed at its thirteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1993), a closed season for fishing with pelagic longlines in the Mediterranean that entered into force on 31 May 1994,*
- *The majority of coastal States of the Mediterranean are not members of ICCAT but are members of GFCM, and share a common concern with the state of bluefin tuna stocks.*

Adopted the following recommendations:

FIRST: *that during the period from 1 June to 31 July there will be no fishery using large pelagic longline vessels greater than 24 m in length for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean, that the members of GFCM whose nationals have been fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean using large pelagic fishing vessels greater than 24 m in length take steps to implement this recommendation before 1 June 1995 in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each country,*

that, in accordance with the decisions of ICCAT adopted in 1989 and subsequent years concerning fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties, the Council requests the Secretariat to transmit this recommendation to non-Contracting Parties whose pelagic longline fishing vessels are currently fishing for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

SECOND: *that the members of GFCM take the necessary measures to prohibit any taking and landing of bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) weighing less than 6.4 kg,*

that notwithstanding the above regulation, the Contracting Parties may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured bluefin weighing less than 6.4 kg, with the condition that this incidental catch should not exceed 15 percent of the number of fish per landing of the total bluefin catch of said boats or its equivalent in percentage by weight,

THIRD *that each contracting Party fishing bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea take the necessary measures:*

- *to prevent any increase in the fishing mortality rate for the years 1995 and beyond,*
- *to prevent any catch by vessels under their jurisdiction in 1995 in excess of the level of catch in 1993 or 1994 (whichever is higher),*
- *to reduce, starting in 1996, by 25 percent (or such lower amount which may be specified by the SCommittee RS of ICCAT) their catches from the catch level specified in the previous paragraph, such reduction to be accomplished by the end of 1998,*
- *to cooperate in the development, by 1998, of a long-term recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean,*
- *to prevent catch of age 0 fish (less than 1.8 kg).*

That the above measures should enter into force on 1 June 1995.

11. ICCAT was requested to consider as soon as possible the relevance of extending these provisions to other fishing methods in the Mediterranean during the June/July spawning season.

12. Japan informed the Council that it had instituted a voluntary closed season for its vessels operating in the Mediterranean during the bluefin spawning season prior to the introduction of ICCAT regulations, and was promoting joint research on bluefin, including rearing small bluefin for release to the Mediterranean. The results of the research would be made available to interested parties in Mediterranean countries through the Secretariat.

13. With respect to institutional and administrative matters, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries Management that there should be three sub-regional technical consultations: one each in the Western Mediterranean, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The boundaries between the Eastern and Western Mediterranean should duly take into account Statistical sub-divisions. All three Consultations were charged with bringing relevant items of a general nature to the attention of the Committee on Fisheries Management.

14. Noting that the limitations in current funding and the need to ensure adequate representation had led to the present proposal, it was nonetheless stressed that all Consultations should be open to countries from other regions of the Mediterranean who wished to make contributions on issues relevant to the established agendas. The Council underlined the possibility that with improved availability of funds and considering pertinent areas of interest, consultations or ad hoc groupings may be formed for other special geographical areas or issues of common interest. The European Community suggested that this would not impede working groups on smaller geographical units.

15. The Council also touched upon the question of the objectives and annotated agenda of the sub-regional Consultations. It was accepted that the preparation or updating of an assessment, where possible using standard methodologies and direct evaluation methods agreed to at earlier Consultations, on those several key species of demersal and small pelagic resources that dominate the harvests in each sub-region should be a primary role of the Consultations. The Consultations should also aim for an upgrading of such assessments on a biennial basis, including the formulation of relevant management options or recommendations and bio-economic and technical analyses, where these were available. Member governments were requested to encourage their research institutes to focus their presentations at the Consultations on a list of resources and research topics as agreed to at earlier meetings in their respective sub-regions.

16. In order to achieve this objective, the Secretariat should prepare and distribute the proposed agenda well in advance of such Consultations, to all governments and principal research institutes included in the GFCM institutional data base now under preparation. Countries and research institutes should inform the Secretary in advance of any special item they would like to be included on the respective agenda. Items other than assessments to be included on the agenda should be restricted to one, or only a few, clear, management-oriented themes of current priority interest in the sub-region.

17. The Secretariat was encouraged to continue with the preparations of a standard outline for national communications on assessments and resource management, which format should be compatible with the POPDYN database of resource management information with the aim of upgrading it during the various Consultations.

18. The Secretariat was also encouraged to continue with its activities of database preparation and networking. As they became available, and stocked with information, the Secretariat was requested to distribute such databases in the form of diskettes, to the principal national and research institutes.

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

19. The Council was informed of the following intersessional activities :

In 1994:

- (i) the Seventh Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions (Sète, France, September)
- (ii) the Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean (Tunis, Tunisia, November)
- (iii) the Ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries Management (Rome, Italy, October)
- (iv) the First meeting of the Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagics (Fuengirola, Spain, September)

In 1995:

- (v) the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the Application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Malta, March)

20. During the last meeting of experts the following conclusions had been arrived at:

- (a) that the minimum length of fishing vessels to be authorized to fish on the high seas in the Mediterranean Sea should be 15 metres with the possibility of reducing this length to 12 metres after a reasonable experimental period;
- (b) that priority be given to the collection and exchange of information on fishing vessels authorized to fish on the high seas. The setting up of national registers for these boats would lead to the establishment of a regional system and later to an international computerized system for the exchange of this information.

21. The Council considered these recommendations and agreed that only vessels of less than 15 metres in length would be exempt from the application of the Agreement. It recognized that the limit of 15 metres would only apply in respect of vessels flying the flag of a coastal State and operating in the Mediterranean, in waters beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

22. The Council recognized the need to address the problems relating to non-Mediterranean States' vessels operating on the high seas of the region. The Council noted in this respect, that Article III of the Agreement required signatory flag States to ensure that their vessels authorized to fish on the high seas provide the necessary information on their operations, including fishing area, catch and landing data. It also noted that the Agreement provided for international cooperation with regard to the exchange of data.

23. The Council adopted a Resolution, to be brought to the attention of all flag States, setting out its decision to adopt a minimum length of 15 metres for the application of the Agreement in the Mediterranean and to request the cooperation of all flag States to provide details to the GFCM of their vessels that operate on the high seas in the Mediterranean as follows:

Resolution n° 95/2

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), at its Twenty-first Session held in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995, agreed to set a minimum length limit of 15 metres for the application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (hereinafter referred to as the Agreement)

The Council,

Mindful that Article II.2 of the Agreement allows, but does not require a Party to exempt fishing vessels of less than 24 metres in length from the application of the Agreement, subject to two provisions set out in Article II.2.

Noting that Article II.3 of the Agreement provides for coastal States of fishing regions such as the Mediterranean where exclusive economic zones and other zones of extended jurisdiction have not been declared, to set a different length limit below which the Agreement shall not apply, and that the limit would only apply in respect of vessels flying the flag of a coastal State and operating exclusively in that fishing region.

Concerned that there is no provision for vessels of non-coastal States that operate in the Mediterranean to report on their activities to the GFCM,

Noting also that Article III of the Agreement requires the flag States to ensure that its vessels provide it with the necessary information on their operations, including fishing area, catch and landing data,

Establishes, for the purpose of Article II.3 of the Agreement, a minimum length limit of 15 metres for fishing vessels flying the flag of a coastal State of the Mediterranean and operating exclusively in the Mediterranean.

Requests all States without distinction, whose fishing vessels operate in international waters in the Mediterranean to provide information on these vessels, as set out in Article VI of the Agreement, to the Secretariat of the GFCM.

24. The Council encouraged all member States of the GFCM to ratify the Compliance Agreement. It recommended that in the meantime, national licensing schemes be established and that information on the above be provided to GFCM.

25. Secretariat proposed to the Council a programme of activities for the period 1996-97. The proposed programme took into account the different proposals and recommendations made by the subsidiary bodies of GFCM and the recommendations of its last session. The Council agreed to hold the following meetings:

- (i) Eighth Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Western Mediterranean (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Autumn 1996)
- (ii) Fourth Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean (Cyprus, June 1996);
- (iii) Second Session of the ad hoc Joint GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagics in September 1995. This second session of the Working Group would give particular attention to stock assessment of swordfish in the Mediterranean.
- (iv) Working Group on Fisheries Economics and Statistics (Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Autumn 1996)
- (v) Fifty-third Session of the Executive Committee (Rome, Italy, December 1996)
- (vi) Tenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries Management (Rome, March 1997)
- (vii) Twenty-second Session of the Council (Morocco, June 1997). Council has also indicated its wish to hold one special meeting before the end of 1997, which could be held immediately after the Committee on Fisheries Management
- (viii) Third Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea, possibly in September 1996, subject to a request being received from the countries concerned.

26. The Council requested the Secretariat to contact member countries and identify locations and decide upon the dates for those sessions for which no host country had been identified. The Council also reiterated its wish to aim at annual meetings, in which case these could be held back-to-back with annual meetings of the Committee on Fisheries Management.

27. The Council considered that the full implementation of this programme of activities would require extra-budgetary funding. Such contributions were detailed in document GFCM/XXI/95/9 which was discussed under item 10 of the Agenda.

STATUS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENT RELATED TO FISHERIES

28. The Secretariat introduced document GFCM/XXI/95/4 which described the environmental issues relevant to fisheries as well as the impact of fishing activities on marine populations. More specifically, it dealt with the problem of eutrophication which in many areas, exceeded the levels which could be useful to fisheries; the continuous input of toxic, persistent substances liable to bio-accumulate; the introduction of non-indigenous species (such as Caulerpa taxifolia) which may upset the ecological balance in the region, the impact of fishing activities on target and non-target fish species as well as on marine birds, turtles, mammals and the seabed ecosystem.

29. The observer from the EC informed the Council of the various EC activities in the field and specifically referred to a paper, recently submitted to the European Community Council, which dealt with the evaluation of the biological impact of fishing activities on the environment and gave priority to the evaluation of:

- (a) the effects of fishing on marine mammals, turtles and birds,
- (b) the effects of industrial fishing on marine birds and predatory fish high in the trophic chain; and
- (c) the effects of fishing on the benthic communities.

The EC included these projects in the priorities of the Fisheries and Agro-Industry Research Programme (FAIR). The EC stated that the relevant document recognized that the GFCM could play a coordinating role in the acquisition and standardization of such data.

30. The Council expressed its concern over the deterioration of the environmental situation in the Mediterranean and noted that the reduction of fish stocks depended on a wide variety of factors, often difficult to link directly to any one factor. Although some of these factors can be out of control, the Council called upon its member countries to keep under close control human activities which exert an effect on the Mediterranean marine ecosystem.

31. The Council agreed to bring to the attention of relevant Ministries in member countries its concern as regards the impact of human activities on the Mediterranean

marine environment. Since some of the recommendations did not fall within the competence of the ministries responsible for fisheries, the Chairman proposed and the Council agreed that a resolution to be transmitted immediately to the Ninth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which will take place in Barcelona from 5 to 8 June 1995, as follows:

Resolution n° 95/3

The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean, meeting in Alicante, Spain, from 22 to 26 May 1995,

- *acknowledging its responsibility for the conservation, rational management and sustainable utilization of living marine resources*
- *concerned that human activities can negatively affect the marine ecosystem and result in the degradation of marine living resources*
- *acknowledging the progress achieved in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan towards the protection of the marine environment*
- *stressing the importance of cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the region, especially with UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan*

INVITES the 9th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties meeting in Barcelona (5 - 8 June 1995)

- *to step up efforts to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, inputs into the Mediterranean marine environment, of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bio-accumulate*
- *to reduce inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus, especially in enclosed and semi-enclosed marine areas where eutrophication has or may have detrimental environmental impacts such as fish kills and shellfish poisoning with serious economic losses for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors*
- *to promote all necessary measures to protect sensitive Mediterranean habitats, such as coastal lagoons, important to fisheries and extensive aquaculture.*

EFFORT LIMITATION AND GUIDELINES FOR AN EFFORT-BASED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

32. As reported by the Technical Consultations on Stock Assessment and by other competent Mediterranean Organizations such as CIESM, the state of fisheries resources, especially the demersal stocks, was of growing concern, and the need for timely and adequate management action was raised by the last session of the Committee on

Fisheries Management. This had placed priority on the control of fishing effort as the single measure of highest priority if responsible fisheries management was to be assured.

33. The Committee had instructed the Secretariat to prepare guidelines for an effort-based management system to be reviewed by the Twenty-first session of the Council. In discussing these guidelines, the Council noted that a large number of international initiatives now underway were relevant to the control of fisheries in national and international waters, which will need to be taken into account.

34. The timeliness of implementation of fishery control measures was reinforced by recent initiatives such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries now being developed by FAO, and by the recent Diplomatic Conference organized by the European Union in December 1994 in Crete.

35. The mechanisms for implementing international fishery management and conservation measures for stocks lying across the boundary between national jurisdiction and the high seas were being addressed in UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. It was recognized also that the provisions of the Compliance Agreement were likely to strongly influence the specific provisions of any effort control system finally decided upon.

36. With respect to the justification for an urgent and immediate stop to any further growth of fishing effort on demersal resources throughout the Mediterranean, the Council accepted that the main basis for action was not only the stock assessments provided by its sub-regional consultations which showed resources under serious stress and generally low catch rates, but socio-economic information showing that fishermen in many areas were under economic stress, often looking to their national authorities for economic support, and obliged to increase the fishing power of their vessels in order to maintain catches from falling further.

37. The evidence available on the actual size of national fleets, their composition, activities and plans for renewal, were discussed by the Council, on the basis of data provided in the background document. It was agreed, and freely admitted by the Secretariat, that the tabulated data stemming from the FAO Bulletin of Fleet Statistics published in 1992 was fragmentary, out of date and in many cases contained erroneous information.

38. Some more up to date fleet information was provided by those countries which attended the ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the Application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, which met in Malta, 6-8 March 1995, but the Council agreed that despite this, the current size and characteristics of Mediterranean fishing fleets could only be guessed at within wide limits from available sources. Although drastically improving this database was an absolute pre-condition for any system of effort control, the Council recognized that the available data, for all its deficiencies, pointed to an increase in fleet size over the 1970's and 1980's in most countries, which was compatible with the information provided by demersal fish stock assessments.

39. The Council agreed that choosing direct effort control, as opposed to a control of landings as a method of limiting fishery impacts on the stocks, was often necessary because of the small- scale nature and diversity of Mediterranean fisheries which was not conducive to real time monitoring of catches in a catch quota control framework.

40. The delegate from Tunisia informed the Council that a review of the national fishing sector was carried out in his Country and that important measures had been taken with particular emphasis on the Conservation and rational management of the resources. He also mentioned that the installation of monitoring equipments such as black boxes and satellite systems would necessitate new investments that are difficult to import to the fishing Community particularly in the present economical situation of the sector.

41. The delegate from Spain pointed out that it was premature to seek to apply the provisions of the New York Conference since discussions are still ongoing. Furthermore, the specific characteristics of Mediterranean fisheries where fleets consist of predominantly small vessels which fish in both national and international waters, make most Mediterranean countries both coastal and high seas fishing nations. A system of fishing effort control was necessary and urgent and its provisions could be accomplished without the need for sophisticated satellite systems, by reinforcing provisions for authorization to fish and by licensing.

42. The delegate from Greece noted that fleet reductions had been implemented recently, and although agreeing with the need to control effort, agreed with other delegations that satellite systems were difficult to implement at this time. A major source of concern related to management of the small-scale sector.

43. The delegation from Croatia noted that management of total fishing effort exerted in the Adriatic Sea was a top priority at the current time, and that conditions may be more favourable now than formerly for sub-regional, multilateral application of an effort control system as described in the background paper. Currently, some 7 000 Italian vessels were believed to be operating, with 1009 from Croatia, and unknown numbers from other coastal States. Croatia has forbidden imports of boats from Italy in an effort to control the growth in fleet size, and suggested that the monitoring provisions in the draft UN Agreement could be applied in any joint effort control system.

44. He proposed that a special technical conference might be held between all coastal States of the Adriatic to decide on a common management regime, and the Council recommended that the Secretariat pursue the feasibility of this proposal with the other States concerned.

45. The delegate from Italy, while agreeing that such a proposal merited consideration from his government, referred to the present unsettled situation in the Eastern Adriatic which posed problems in implementing this proposal in the short term. He did agree however with the need for more multilateral assistance for the implementing of statistical reporting and associated management measures.

46. The Council noted that although a number of provisions in the revised negotiation text, A/Conf.164/22/Rev.1, 11 April 1995, (Article 18 on duties of the Flag State, and Articles 19, 20 and 21 on various aspects of Compliance and Enforcement, inter alia) were likely to be of immediate relevance in applying an effort control regime, there remained questions of how such binding provisions may be applied to the particular situation of the Mediterranean.

47. The delegate from Malta stated that the present drafting of Article 13 on "Enclosed and Semi-enclosed Seas" which enjoined States to "take account of the geographical and ecological characteristics of that sea" and to act in a manner consistent with the relevant provisions of the draft Agreement did not provide much guidance on this issue, and with the section on "Declarations and Statements" did not take into account the particular regime of the Mediterranean where exclusive economic zones had not been declared, and where small-scale or artisanal vessels were fishing on the high seas, may not allow exceptions to be made in applying all relevant provisions. In the case of fleets of small artisanal vessels operating in Mediterranean waters, these considerations taken together, could pose problems if no allowance was made for the Mediterranean situation. The Council took note and supported these observations.

48. The delegate from Israel noted that an effort limitation was the most appropriate management provision for the Mediterranean context. Israel froze fleet levels in 1991 for artisanal vessels and since 1995 the number of industrial vessels. He suggested that the provisions as proposed did not go far enough, and suggested the establishment of a registry of fishing boats before the next meeting of the Council which would include all fishing boats in operation whether fishing in national or international waters.

49. The observer from the European Community expressed support on behalf of its member countries for any approach aimed at harmonizing and unifying data bases of fishing fleets operating on the high seas. He referred to the resolution by the participants in the Mallorca seminar deploring the presence of reflagged fishing vessels operating outside all international fisheries conventions applicable to the Mediterranean.

50. The observer from CIESM declared that in March this year the CIESM Committee on Marine Vertebrates and Cephalopods expressed its concern with overfishing in the Adriatic and elsewhere, and indicated the need for a control of Mediterranean fishing fleets and their fishing effort. He noted that it was easier to check vessels in port than to control catches in real time. The question was not whether to apply an effort control system, but when and how.

51. The observer from Greenpeace suggested that a specific timetable be set out for adopting the provisions envisaged in the effort control document, and recommended that in deciding on appropriate levels of total fishing effort, a precautionary approach be adopted in the present case where fleet sizes remain uncertain.

52. The Council noted that the concept of a "distant-water fishing vessel" remained ambiguous in the Mediterranean context, but, when used without qualification should be taken to refer to vessels of States from outside the Mediterranean. The need to distinguish between vessels of Mediterranean States fishing just outside their own

jurisdictional limits, and those fishing just outside the limits of other Mediterranean coastal States, could be avoided by carefully specifying the unit resources and the area over which the proposed effort regulation scheme applies in the authorization to fish.

53. It was pointed out by the delegation from Morocco that the notion of a "GFCM fisheries license" for operating beyond territorial waters was not compatible with international law, and the Council agreed that licensing provisions, both inside and outside territorial waters was a national responsibility, although some improved communication on the dimension and characteristics of the fleets and dominant gear type involved was highly appropriate, without necessarily specifying the names of vessels. Such lists of vessels could be exchanged bilaterally in the case of shared stocks, but it was recommended that GFCM should act as the repository for data collected in a common format. The Council requested that the Secretariat provide a draft format licences to be distributed as soon as possible to member countries.

54. The Chairman noted the evident deficiencies of the current FAO database on fleet sizes and characteristics operating in the Mediterranean, and the need for transparency and burden sharing of the costs and restraints required by a system of effort control. This should also be shared by distant-water vessels operating in the Mediterranean. Adherence of all States fishing in the Mediterranean to the key provisions of the Compliance Agreement, especially those relating to the preparation and updating of vessel registries for all boats over 15 m was important, even prior to ratification of that Agreement, and would constitute a de facto commitment to flag State responsibility.

55. The Secretariat was requested to prepare a simple and comprehensive questionnaire to collect data on fishing vessels and distribute it immediately to all member countries. This draft questionnaire is included in Appendix F. The Council agreed to a deadline for submission to the Secretariat of complete data on national fishing fleets operating in the Mediterranean in 1994-5 by the time of the October 1995 meeting of the FAO Council. The data should be broken down into vessel categories over and under 15m OAL (overall length), and these two categories should in turn, be divided into sub-categories of vessels predominantly operating active and passive fishing gear respectively. Each sub-category should include a breakdown of vessels by total HP and/or total Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) as available.

Resolution 95/4

The Council calls on its member countries to prepare a list of fishing boats in operation from national ports in the Mediterranean and provide this information to the GFCM Secretariat by October 1995 in the form specified in the report of the Twenty-first Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

56. The Council reviewed the proposed three phases of introducing an effort control system given in Section IV of document GFCM/XXI/95/6. It agreed that most of the action in Phase I would take effect immediately, such as:

- a) Approval of the minimum vessel length cut-off agreed to of 15 m under the Compliance Agreement (see also Resolution 95/2).
- b) National lists of data should be set up by major vessel category operating in Mediterranean waters and provided to FAO by October 1995 on a standard form provided by the Secretariat. These data should be updated with information on vessel replacement at regular intervals.
- c) The Secretariat was charged with suggesting a preliminary categorization of vessel/gear types for the next meeting of the Committee on Fisheries Management.
- d) Assessment work should continue on key stocks, but some national research effort should be applied to studying questions of vessel power calibration, to be reported to future meetings.

57. Progress on the action contemplated under phases II and III in the document should be reported to GFCM, but no immediate coordinated action was called for at this time.

58. The usefulness of collecting data on activities and characteristics of vessels of non-contracting parties fishing in the Mediterranean or calling in Mediterranean ports was emphasized. GFCM Member States should forward this information to the GFCM Secretariat.

59. Data sources and sampling schemes for enumerating small-scale vessels needed to be reviewed for the next session of the Council.

FISHERY STATISTICS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: STATUS AND STRATEGY FOR IMPROVEMENT

60. The status and strategy for the improvement of fishery statistics in the Mediterranean were reviewed on the basis of documents GFCM/XXI/95/5 and GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.7.

61. The Council was informed of an ever increasing need to collect quality data on fishing vessels, their area of operation, catches and landings as a consequence of developments of the International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the Compliance Agreement, and the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. It noted that the Code of Conduct already contained proposals for authorizations to fish and reporting to be applied to all fishing vessels, irrespective of their area of operation.

62. In its review of data reporting, the Council expressed its disappointment that there were still deficits in reporting under STATLANT 37A and again urged countries to make timely submissions of this form.

63. With regard to STATLANT 37B, the Council noted that there continued to be a low level of response. The Council reiterated its opinion that although the usefulness of this form was questionable, the lack of data on fishing effort was a serious impediment to stock assessment and fisheries management.

64. The Council stressed that there was a need for data collection systems at national level to be appropriately designed, implemented and monitored for which minimum standards for data should be established. It considered, however, that the proposal to set up three networks to address these issues may be premature and although it saw merit in networking national institutions in this respect, it stressed the need for a practical, rather than academic approach.

65. The Secretariat informed the Council that it may be possible to finance some activities through Italian Funds-in-Trust to be deposited in a special account that would be under the control of GFCM. The Council welcomed this information.

66. The Council acknowledged the need to improve the status of Statistics in the Mediterranean and agreed that:

- (i) each Government should nominate a contact point to be responsible for the formulation and dissemination of statistics as well as to coordinate the review and analysis of the STATLANT forms set out in sub-paragraphs (ii) and (iii) below;
- (ii) STATLANT 37A should be reviewed by governments in order to improve quality of data and speed up response to the questionnaire;
- (iii) governments should analyze the problems associated with the STATLANT 37B form;
- (iv) the GFCM Executive Committee will review the results of the analysis of STATLANT 37B in order to make proposals for the minimum level of data to be reported by governments.

67. The Council stressed the need for a high level of commitment at national level and requested FAO to ensure the submission of national material for an early review of these issues by the Executive Committee.

68. It was proposed by the Council that every effort should be made to bring forward the next session of the Working Party on Fisheries Economics and Statistics to 1996 in order to finalize minimum standards and requirements for data to be applied by the GFCM.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

69. In introducing document GFCM/XXI/95/7, the Secretariat referred to the request made at the Twentieth Session of the Council to continue the promotion of cooperation between GFCM and the other organizations concerned with the various

aspects of fisheries in the Mediterranean, with particular emphasis on the strengthening of such cooperation with the European Community, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea.

(a) Cooperation with EC

70. The Council welcomed the assistance provided to GFCM by the EC for the organization of the following meetings:

- the GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Fish (Fuengirola, Spain, 1994)
- the Ad hoc Meeting of Experts on the Application of the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (Malta, March 1995)

71. The Council expressed the wish that the EC would also finance the second session of the GFCM/ICCAT Working Group on Large Pelagic Fish which will concentrate on the assessment of stocks of swordfish in the GFCM area.

72. The observer from the EC informed the Council that his organization was in the process of promoting a common Mediterranean fisheries policy following two different approaches:

- (i) the first approach concerned EC member countries and aimed at establishing a resources management and conservation model based on effort limitation and controlled access to resources;
- (ii) the second approach involved riparian countries and other countries fishing in the Mediterranean and should lead to the agreement on a rational, responsible and sustainable fisheries management/administration.

73. The Diplomatic Conference organized by the EC in Heraklion (December 1994) and the International Symposium organized in Palma de Mallorca (May 1993) were part of the consultation process initiated by the EC with a view to arriving at a fisheries policy for the Mediterranean.

74. The Council expressed its satisfaction with the on-going efforts of the European Community to establish a regional management policy and also its contribution to the financing of some GFCM activities.

(b) Cooperation with ICCAT

75. The Secretariat reported to the Council on the activities carried out jointly with ICCAT. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT expressed the satisfaction of his Organization with the results of its cooperation with GFCM. He reported to the Council on the new measures adopted by ICCAT which consisted in the obligation for fish exporters to accompany their shipments with a certificate that gave indications on the

origin of the bluefin tuna catches (fishing grounds, fishing gear used, etc.). This measure which concerned only bluefin tuna, aimed at obtaining information on catches made by vessels fishing under flags of countries which are not members of GFCM and/or ICCAT.

76. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT brought to the attention of the Council the possibility of training junior scientists from Mediterranean countries and urged those countries to take advantage of such possibilities.

77. The Council requested the Secretariat to follow up closely with ICCAT on the possibility of formalizing cooperation, not only at the technical level, as at present, but also at the management level, by involving the two organizations in the decision-making process as regards the management of large pelagics in the Mediterranean.

78. The Council called upon its member countries and other countries fishing in the Mediterranean to provide the GFCM Secretariat with information on the activities of vessels belonging to non-ICCAT and non-GFCM member countries.

(c) Cooperation with IOC

79. In reviewing the status of cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Council deplored the lack of information available on SARP activities and their results. The Council requested the Secretariat to obtain such information and make it available to member countries.

(d) Cooperation with CIESM

80. The Director-General of CIESM addressed the Council explaining that his organization was ready to cooperate with GFCM. He submitted to the Council a list of potential activities that may be considered for joint action by the two bodies. This list was referred to under the section of the report dealing with fishery research needs and priorities (paragraphs 85 to 87) and is attached as Appendix F to this report.

(e) Cooperation with UNEP

81. The Secretariat reported to the Council on its participation in the Ministerial Conference organized by the United Nations Environment Programme in November 1994 on Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean MED21 and to the two preparatory meetings organized in May and October 1994 in Tunis, Tunisia. The Council took note of the four ministerial resolutions adopted by the Conference.

82. The Council was also informed that the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention will take place in Barcelona from 5 to 8 June 1995, while on 9 and 10 June there will be a Meeting of Plenipotentiaries attended by Ministers in charge of environment to examine modifications to the Barcelona Convention and two of its Protocols.

83. In addition the Contracting Parties were expected to adopt an Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal

Areas of the Mediterranean which would be the second phase of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The emphasis in the new phase would be shifted to sustainable development in the Mediterranean and one of the chapters would be dealing with the sustainable management of natural resources. Living marine resources were also included and certain activities were envisaged to be implemented through GFCM. The Council emphasized that very close cooperation with MAP was essential.

FISHERY RESEARCH: NEEDS AND PRIORITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

84. The key role of research on all aspects of fisheries was recognized by the Council as the basis for effective management action, especially concerning the utilization of those resources fished by two or more countries. Such research was required to be interdisciplinary and appropriate in geographical and ecological focus, as well as responsive to the needs of management.

85. The Council noted that research collaboration between GFCM and CIESM already existed at the working level since its sessions (notably the CIESM Committee on Marine Vertebrates and Cephalopods and the DYNPOP group), were usually attended by the same scientists. The CIESM meeting therefore provided an extra source of expert advice to the Council on resource and environmental issues.

86. The Council reviewed a list of potential areas of collaboration by GFCM/CIESM, (see Appendix F) and pointed out the need to clarify the terms of reference of subsidiary bodies of GFCM and of cooperating agencies in the context of the new structure and functions of the Council to be discussed later.

87. Many of the issues in Appendix F were Mediterranean-wide in scope, and the Council suggested that these be prioritized and that funding and support for the top priorities be sought jointly. Further, it supported the idea that member States could set aside a small proportion of budgets for research on common, Mediterranean-wide issues such as described in the Appendix.

88. The need for modern technological aids such as Geographical Information System (GIS) operating within research institutes networked by electronic means of communication was stressed by the Council. The Secretariat was instructed to prepare a project proposal for the next meeting of the Executive Committee providing a suggested modality and costs.

89. With respect to fisheries technology, the need for research on selective fishing, reducing unnecessary, bycatch and discards, and promoting escapement of juvenile fish, and on stock enhancement, were proposed as important areas for investigation.

90. With respect to GIS, databases, software and other types of information, the Secretariat was to act as a clearing house for redistribution of information. The Council suggested that member country institutes utilize this clearing house function as a way of reconciling relevant regional initiatives. As for the questionnaire on research priorities, the active response by countries was the key to success in proper networking activities,

but the Secretariat was encouraged to make progress on a complete database of institutes and programmes to be circulated to countries. The problem of networking experts in socio-economic aspects needed further study, given that many of these work outside government institutes, and a review of this issue should be provided to the next Council.

91. The Council expressed gratitude to the EC for their readiness to invite non-EC researchers to participate in common programmes such as the FARWEST survey programme.¹ The Secretariat was instructed to investigate the modalities of extending regular meetings of EC research directors to include those from non-EC countries. Such meetings could also discuss the possibility of designating land centres for key research issues, and provide 'contact points' for a research network.

92. The observer from Japan delegation informed the Council of a cooperative research programme which was carried out with EC support between the Fisheries Agency of Japan and Mediterranean institutes on bluefin tuna eggs and larvae. Preliminary results suggested the Ionian Sea as the centre of spawning, but results will be submitted to the Secretariat for distribution.

REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL: PROPOSAL FOR AN AUTONOMOUS BUDGET

93. In introducing this item, the Assistant Director-General a.i., Fisheries Department, Mr. W. Krone, recalled that the GFCM was one of the oldest of the FAO regional fishery management bodies, that it had already undergone structural changes on a number of occasions, including in particular the creation of the Committee on Fisheries Management in 1974, and that legally it already possessed adequate powers to enable it to perform the task of conserving and managing the fishery resources of the Mediterranean. For the Council to fully live up to its mandate in the future, it would be necessary to ensure the full commitment of its members and the provision of adequate financial resources. In this connection, recent sessions of the Council had demonstrated the readiness of members to consider measures to strengthen the operation of the Council.

94. Various options for improving the work of the Council were set out in document GFCM/XXI/95/9. These included:

- holding all sub-regional technical consultations during each intersessional period;
- reactivating the working parties on fisheries economics and statistics and on artificial reefs and mariculture (now superseded by the proposal to establish a Committee on Aquaculture);

¹ The FARWEST project was carried out between 1991 and 1994 by the main fishery research institutions of the European countries in the northwestern Mediterranean to ascertain the availability of the information useful for stock management; a common data base has been developed.

- extending the competence of the Council and its subsidiary bodies to give more emphasis to fisheries management and aquaculture and setting up a cooperative programme of research on fisheries and aquaculture in collaboration with other regional institutions concerned with fisheries;
- promoting the exchange of expertise and organizing on-the-job training for young scientists from the southern Mediterranean;
- expanding the competence and the composition of the Executive Committee as recommended by the Twentieth Session of the Council; and
- strengthening the Secretariat of the Council.

To these should be added the option of providing the Council with its own autonomous budget.

95. The Council noted that this item was closely linked to agenda item 11 on the amendment of the GFCM Agreement and Rules of Procedure, and structured its discussions accordingly. In this context, it noted that while amendment of the Agreement and Rules of Procedure may well be called for, much could be done to improve the performance of the Council while working within the existing legal framework.

96. In reviewing the above options, the Council agreed that regular intersessional meetings of the sub-regional technical consultations were necessary. In view of the fact that the Black Sea coastal states were establishing their own commission, there may no longer be a need to provide for the Black Sea sub-regional technical consultations.

97. One meeting of the Working Party on Fisheries Economics and Statistics should also be held in the next intersessional period, as well as the joint meeting of GFCM and ICCAT, and a meeting of the proposed new Committee on Aquaculture. Savings to the regular GFCM budget could be made by providing for "sponsorship" of these meetings by individual GFCM Members. Further savings could be made by holding meetings of technical experts in one language only wherever possible.

98. While ideally meetings of the Council and the Committee on Fisheries Management should be held back-to-back once a year, the Council agreed that this would be impracticable at the moment within the present limited budget, and that meetings of the two bodies should continue to be scheduled in alternate years.

99. Having considered a report on the financial and administrative implications, the Council decided to establish a Committee on Aquaculture forthwith as a matter of urgency in view of the imminent winding-up of the Medrap project. The functions of the new Committee should be to provide a forum for the exchange of information related to the networks and to provide coordination, and eventually to provide a forum for dealing with the broader aspects of aquaculture in a more integrated manner, using the networks as tools for this purpose and as a point of departure. The Council entrusted the Executive Committee with the task of drawing up the detailed terms of reference for the Committee based on these broad functions. The first session of the Committee should be held as soon as possible and preferably before the end of 1995. The Council

welcomed initial expressions of interest from France and Italy in co-sponsoring the first session of the Committee on Aquaculture.

100. Proposals were being made to amend the objectives of the GFCM to formally include mariculture and coastal fisheries enhancement, had the Council noted the advice of Legal Counsel that the establishment of a such a committee dealing primarily with marine and brackish water aquaculture would not be outside the present powers of the Council.

101. On the option of promoting the exchange of expertise and organizing on-the-job training of young scientists from the southern Mediterranean, the Council noted that several countries already operated such programmes, and that the task was more one of targeting such exchange visits towards specific studies of value to the work of the Council.

102. The Council recognized the need for a speedy communications system linking all national fisheries institutions and the GFCM Secretariat. It called on Members to designate contact officers for this purpose and to communicate their names and contact details to the Secretariat.

103. The Council noted that the expansion of the Executive Committee on a permanent basis would require amendment of the GFCM Rules of Procedure and that provisions to this effect were included in the draft amendments presented to the Council session. Meanwhile experts could be invited to attend the sessions of the Executive Committee on an interim basis.

104. The Council recognized the urgent need of strengthening the secretariat of the GFCM. In this connection, an offer to assign Associate Professional Officers to the technical support of the Secretariat was made by Spain, and France informed the Council that it was also considering assigning a Professional Officer. The Council also recommended that full-time secretarial support be provided to the Secretariat. While it would have preferred the appointment of a Secretary on a full time basis, it recognized that for the time being budgetary constraints would make this impracticable.

105. The Council reviewed the detailed budget requirements for Meetings of a strengthened GFCM. These amounted to some US\$ 243,000, assuming that a number of meetings would be sponsored by individual Council members and that FAO would only need to cover the costs of documentation, including the reports.

106. The Council considered the matter of whether the Council should have its own autonomous budget. It noted that this option might prove difficult for many GFCM Members to accept, at this particular time. The Council therefore recommended that for the present the GFCM should rely on voluntary contributions from Members to supplement the regular budget provided by FAO, but that the question of ultimately providing GFCM with its own autonomous budget should be kept under review.

107. The Council recommended that FAO establish a trust fund for voluntary contributions from Members to help defray the additional costs of a strengthened GFCM and urged Members to consider making voluntary contributions for this purpose. The

representative of Israel indicated that his Government would be prepared to share in funding specific projects or programmes, such as the speedy communications system referred to in paragraph 102 above.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF GFCM

108. The Council recalled that, at its Twentieth Session held in Qawra, Malta, in July 1993, it had reviewed its structure and functions and had concluded that a number of amendments to the GFCM Agreement and Rules of Procedure would be appropriate. It had also noted that further action would be taken to draft appropriate amendments to the Agreement and Rules of Procedure to allow for the participation of the European Community (EC) in the GFCM once the EC had formally notified FAO as to the basis on which the EC Member States and/or the EC itself wished to participate in the Council. In this context, the Council noted that a formal notification had been sent by the EC to FAO on 10 April 1995 indicating that, while the EC Council had not yet adopted a final position on the matter, it had been agreed in principle in 1993 that, in this specific matter, the solution to be retained would be that of the alternative exercise of membership rights.

109. The Council noted that the draft amendments set out in document GFCM/XXI/95/10 covered the following matters:

- the amendments recommended by the Council at its Twentieth Session regarding the inclusion of mariculture and coastal fisheries enhancement in the objectives of the Council;
- amendments designed to allow for the participation of the EC in the GFCM, drawn up on the assumption notified to FAO that EC membership would be based on the concept of the alternative exercise of membership rights by the EC and its Member States;
- the change of the name of the Council to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean in line with the decision adopted by the Council at its Eighteenth Session in 1989;
- further amendments designed to allow more flexibility and autonomy to the Council in accordance with the modifications to Part R of the Basic Texts of FAO adopted by the FAO Conference in November 1991;
- provision for the acceptance of voluntary contributions;
- minor amendments to the Agreement of a purely editorial nature; and
- amendments to Rule X of the Rules of Procedure to broaden participation in the Executive Committee and to enhance its role and powers in accordance with the Council's recommendations at its Twentieth Session.

110. The Council noted that it was not in a position formally to adopt the draft amendments to the GFCM Agreement and Rules of Procedure pending formal proposal of the amendments to the Agreement by a GFCM Member in accordance with Rule XVI of the GFCM Rules of Procedure. In any case it did not have the required quorum (two-thirds of the GFCM membership) to adopt such amendments at this session. The EC informed that discussion within the Community, related to technical aspects of its participation are still ongoing; that is why a formal request for membership was not yet done. However the present consideration of the draft amendments would provide an excellent opportunity to review their appropriateness and completeness on a more informal basis.

111. The draft amendments set out in document GFCM/XXI/95/10 would, of course, be subject to detailed review in each of the Members' capitals. Subject to this, the Council considered that the document constituted an excellent basis for its work. The Council in particular welcomed the possibility of the EC could become a Member of the GFCM.

112. It was also considered that further amendments might be appropriate to reflect recent developments including the negotiations at the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Migratory Fish Stocks and on the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and the outcome of the Twenty-first Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. Areas that might be covered could include greater stress in the function of FAO, on the need for conservation of living marine resources and ecosystems including the precautionary approach, and a review of the dispute settlement procedures in the light of the outcome of the UN Conference.

113. The Council further agreed that consideration should be given to including specific articles in the Agreement providing for the respective roles of the plenary Sessions of the Council, the Executive Committee, the Committee on Fisheries Management, and a GFCM Scientific Committee. It stressed in particular the need for separating clearly the scientific advisory role from the political act of the adoption of conservation and management measures.

114. Concern was also expressed that the draft amendments should reflect the greatest degree of autonomy allowed to the Council under the Basic Texts of FAO, including in particular with regard to the appointment of the secretariat of the Council. It noted, however, that under Part R of the Basic Texts, agreements concluded under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution could provide for consultation on the appointment of the secretary of the Council only in the case of bodies having their own autonomous budgets.

115. On the matter of the extension of the objectives of the GFCM to include mariculture and coastal fisheries enhancement, the Council requested that a general reference to "aquaculture" be included in the introductory paragraph of Article II - Functions.

116. The Council requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft of the amendments taking into account the above views.

117. In view of the urgency of some of the draft amendments to the GFCM Agreement and Rules of Procedure, the Council, in accordance with Rule II.2 of the GFCM Rules of Procedure, requested the Chairman, as appropriate, to convene a special session of the Council in Rome to adopt the amendments to the Agreement and Rules of Procedure, subject to the availability of the necessary funds. In this connection, the Council called on the parties most concerned to provide extra-budgetary funds to cover the expenses of the special session.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

118. The Council noted the practical difficulties that might arise in the authorization of vessels to fish on the high seas due to the difference in the limits of national jurisdiction declared in the Mediterranean.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

119. The delegate of Italy proposed that the incumbent Chairman and the First and Second Vice-Chairmen be re-elected for a second term of office. This motion was seconded by the delegate of Tunisia. Mr. R. Conde de Saro (Spain), Mr. Y. Ouati (Morocco) and Mr. C. Agius (Malta) were, therefore, unanimously re-elected as Chairman, and First and Second Vice-Chairmen respectively.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

120. The Council authorized the Chairman, as appropriate, to call for an Extraordinary Session of the Council at FAO Headquarters in Rome early in 1996. The Extraordinary Session would discuss the proposed amendments to the Agreement and the Rules of Procedure of GFCM.

121. With regard to the Twenty-second Ordinary Session of the Council, in accordance with Rule II, paragraph 1 of the GFCM Rules of Procedure, the Council, in consultation with the Director-General of FAO, decides on the time and place of its next session, taking into account the Council's requirements and the terms of the invitation of the country in which the session is to be held.

122. Concerning the venue of the Twenty-second Session of GFCM, the delegate of Morocco informed the Council of his country's wish to host that session. The Council accepted this offer with appreciation. Dates approximately two years hence were recommended.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

123. The report of the Twenty-first Session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean was adopted on 26 May 1995.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session
3. Consideration of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries Management
4. Intersessional Activities
5. Status of the Mediterranean Environment Related to Fisheries
6. Effort Limitation and Guidelines for an Effort-Based Management System
7. Fishery Statistics in the Mediterranean: Status and Strategy for Improvement
8. Cooperative with other Organizations
9. Fishery Research: Needs and Priorities in the Mediterranean
10. Review of the Structure and Functions of the Council: Proposal for an Autonomous Budget
11. Amendment to the Agreement and Rules of Procedures of GFCM
12. Any Other Matters
13. Election of Officers
14. Date and Place of the Twenty-second Session
15. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

GFCM/XXI/95/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
GFCM/XXI/95/2	Considerations of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Fisheries Management
GFCM/XXI/95/3	Intersessional Activities
GFCM/XXI/95/4	Fisheries and the Environment in the Mediterranean Sea
GFCM/XXI/95/5	Fishery Statistics in the Mediterranean: Status and Strategy for Improvement
GFCM/XXI/95/6	Effort Limitation and Guideline for an Effort-based Management System
GFCM/XXI/95/7	Cooperation with Other Organizations
GFCM/XXI/95/8	Fisheries Research: Needs and Priorities
GFCM/XXI/95/9	Proposal for a Revision of the Structure and Function of the Council: Proposal for Autonomous Budget
GFCM/XXI/95/10	Amendments to the Agreement and Rules of Procedures
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.1	Provisional List of Documents
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.2	Provisional List of Participants
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.3	Report of the Twentieth Session of the Council (Qwara, Malta, 5-9 July 1993)
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.4	Report of the Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions, Sète, France (19-23 September 1994)
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.5	Report of the Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean (Tunis, tunisia, 7-11 November 1994)
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.6	Report of the GFCM <u>Ad hoc</u> Meeting on the Enforcement of the Clauses of the Compliance Agreement (6-8 march 1995)
GFCM/XXI/95/Inf.7	GFCM Statistical Bulletin No. 9

APPENDIX D

DRAFT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Composition of National Fleets Operating in the Mediterranean by port¹, length of vessels² and vessel type³, HP, GRT and gear type⁴

Vessel Categories:

10 m in length and over but less than 12 m
12 m do 15 m
15 m do 24 m
24 m do 35 m
35 m do 46 m
46 m in length and over.

2. National Practices for the Allocation of a Flag, Register of a Fishing Vessel, Authorization to Fish, including inter alia:

Authority responsible for the allocation of a flag
Type and data and details of a fishing vessel entered in the register or record
Authority responsible for the Authorization to Fish
Type and data and details given in the Authorization to Fish
Restrictions imposed (areas to be fished/navigational warranties)
Methods used for the collection of catch data
Requirements for reporting by fishing vessels
Methods for storage and exchange of data

3. Brief description of activities undertaken to implement an effort control system: Section IV of document GFCM XXI/95/6 to be used as a guide for the completion of this part.
4. Additional needs, if any, to comply with the Compliance Agreement, in particular, Articles IV and V.

¹ The name of the port from which the vessel operates should also be given if this is different from the Port of Registry.

² Length of a fishing vessel shall be:
(i) as defined in the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas for all vessels of 15 meters and over;
(ii) the "length overall" for fishing vessels below 15 meters in length as measured under (i) above.

³ According to the guidelines set out in the Classification of Fishing Vessels (FAO Circ.....)

⁴ According to the guidelines set out in the FAO Catalogue and Classification of Fishing Gear (FAO Circ.....)

APPENDIX E

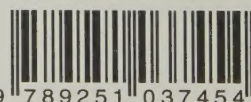
GFCM/ICSEM Cooperation

Items of mutual interest

1. Status of the knowledge on assessment of major commercial fish stocks in the Mediterranean.
2. Evaluation of biological parameters of concern to assessment of stocks of vertebrates and benthic and pelagic cephalopods of commercial or potentially commercial value.
3. Technical consultations on large pelagic fish (in cooperation with ICCAT).
4. A symposium on fluctuations of small pelagic stocks (sardine and anchovy) during the last decade.
5. A symposium on the impacts of marine eutrophication on Mediterranean marine resources.
6. Contributions by experts from ICSEM to the publication of GFCM Studies and Reviews.
7. Strengthening of the POPDYN database.
8. Strengthening of the SIPAM database.
9. Setting up of a programme to monitor the expansion of Mnemiopsis leydei in the eastern Mediterranean.
10. Use of GIS for the monitoring of the coastal Mediterranean environment.

The twenty-first session of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), meeting in Alicante, Spain from 22 to 26 May 1995, reviewed the state of the fishery resources in the Mediterranean. It noted that some of the stocks were showing signs of overfishing. The council therefore took decisions aimed to reduce fishing effort for the bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and to set up a minimum size of 15 m for fishing vessels bearing the flag of coastal States of the Mediterranean and operating exclusively in the Mediterranean. The council requested that all States provide information on these vessels and report to the secretariat. The council also adopted a resolution inviting the ordinary meeting of the contracting parties, which was to take place in Barcelona, Spain in June 1995, to promote necessary measures to protect the Mediterranean habitats. The council decided to establish the Committee for Aquaculture as proposed by the ninth session of the GFCM Committee on Fisheries Management.

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